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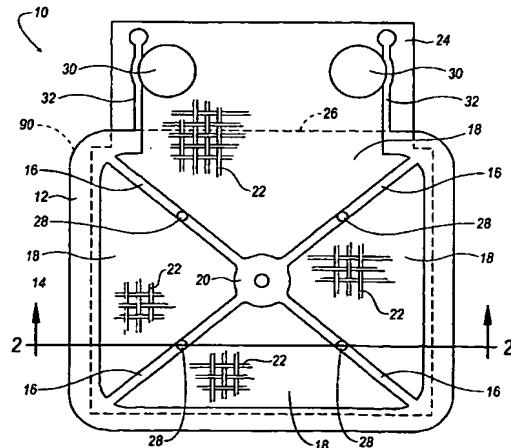
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR POSITIONING REINFORCEMENT MATERIAL WITHIN AN INTERIOR TRIM PANEL



(57) Abstract: A cassette (10, 10', 100) includes a frame member (12) for consistently locating a reinforcement material (22), such as a scrim, at a predetermined position within a layer (46) of material of a trim panel. The reinforcement material (22) can be secured to at least two sides of the frame member (12) by overmolding material when manufacturing the frame member (12). The reinforcement material (22) is positioned at a predetermined location within the layer (46) of material by the use of one or more spacer lugs (28). A shear plane (48) can be formed at an intersection between the frame member (12) and layer (46) of material to assist in severing the trim panel along a tear seam (90) without the need to preweaken the trim panel in a secondary operation, such as by laser scoring, or the like. The frame member (12) may also include a knife edge (54) to assist in severing the trim panel. In one embodiment, the cassette (100) can position the reinforcement material (22) on both sides of the tear seam (90) to prevent fragmentation of the trim panel upon deployment of an airbag.

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